

**STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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June 14, 2012

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Preliminary Lick Observatory Seismic Hazard Zone Map
April 26, 2012
Santa Clara County, California

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) proposes to hold a public hearing in order to receive public comment on the Preliminary Lick Observatory Seismic Hazard Zone Map dated April 26, 2012, Seismic Hazards Zone Report 110 titled "*Seismic Hazard Zone Report for the Lick Observatory 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, Santa Clara County, California.*" This Public Notice is being provided in accordance with the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, pursuant to Public Resources Code, Chapter 7.8, Section 2690-2699.6, and California Code of Regulations, Division 2, Chapter 8, Article 10, Sections 3720-3725.

BACKGROUND

A Preliminary Seismic Hazard Zone Map for the Lick Observatory 7.5-minute Quadrangle was released to Santa Clara County and the City of San Jose by the California Geological Survey (CGS) on April 26, 2012. This map is released under the authority of the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, passed following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. This map addresses the seismic hazards of liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides. The purpose of the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act (SHMA) is to reduce the threat to public safety and to minimize the loss of life and property by identifying and mitigating these seismic hazards.

The SHMA requires the State Geologist to compile and issue maps identifying seismic hazard zones, also referred to as Zones of Required Investigation, and to distribute them to all affected cities, counties and state agencies. The level of potential hazard among the Zones of Required Investigation varies and the purpose of establishing these zones is to delineate areas within which soil conditions, topography and the likelihood of future ground shaking indicate sufficient hazard potential to justify a site-specific geotechnical investigation. The investigation will identify the specific characteristics of individual project sites within the zones before land-use permits are granted. This process enables local government to stipulate appropriate conditional requirements for the design and/or construction that can mitigate future earthquake losses. In developed regions, the Seismic Hazard Zone Maps should not be used to infer that all existing construction within the zone boundaries is hazardous. The properties of local soil conditions and the characteristics of individual buildings are too variable for such regional conclusions to be applied appropriately.

Local agencies, in addition, are required by the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act to incorporate the Official Seismic Hazard Zone Map(s) into their Safety Element. Please note the Natural Hazard Disclosure Statement, as well as the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act, requires sellers of real property to disclosure to buyers if property is within a Zone of Required Investigation.

REVIEW COMMENT PERIOD

The release of Preliminary Seismic Hazard Zone Maps provides a ninety-day public comment period for technical review and comment on the content of the Preliminary Map and accompanying Evaluation Report. Once the public review period has ended, the California Geological Survey (CGS) then also has ninety days to revise the maps, as appropriate, and issue the Official Seismic Hazard Zone Maps to affected cities, counties and state agencies approximately six months after the Preliminary Release. Comments should be sent to the State Mining and Geology Board before July 26, 2012.

PUBLIC HEARING AND WRITTEN COMMENT

The SMGB has scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action, to receive public comments, for July 13, 2012. The public hearing will take place in the Redwood Room, at the Fairmont San Jose, 170 South Market Street, San Jose, CA 95113, at 10:00 A.M.

The hearing facility will be barrier free in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. At the hearing, any person may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the proposed action. The SMGB requests, but does not require, that persons who make oral comments at the hearing also submit a written copy of their testimony. Comments can also be provided in writing up to ten days prior to the scheduled meeting.

CONTACT PERSON

Inquiries concerning the substance of the adopted regulation should be directed to:

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